

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE HOMEOWNERS EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will restore the dream of homeownership to middle- and low-income families.

Mr. Speaker, the sight is all too familiar in urban and rural America: boarded-up homes, abandoned lots, blighted communities. These sights demonstrate that the dream of homeownership is fleeting for some and that these dreams can become nightmares when financial hardship occurs. But what often goes unspoken in discussing this issue is the fact that some of these abandoned properties were purchased under Federal mortgage programs intended to help middle- and low-income Americans. This leads us to ask: what improvements can we make to Federal mortgage assistance programs so that people can keep their homes and live the American dream?

This is the goal of my legislation, the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act. This bill makes needed changes in the way the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) administers its mortgage guarantee program and will keep the dream of homeownership alive for people facing temporary financial difficulties. Under the bill, property owners who fail to pay their mortgage for two months, due to no fault of their own, would not be subject to immediate foreclosure. Often, homeowners cannot honor their mortgage payments because of factors beyond their control. For example, the FHA does not require inspections on homes it guarantees. After a home is purchased, serious structural dilapidation may be uncovered. In such cases, the home may be falling apart and the homeowner will not be able to both repair the damage and pay their mortgage. The home becomes unlivable and is foreclosed. This further blights the neighboring areas and ends the homeowner's dream.

To resolve this unfortunate situation, my bill would provide temporary mortgage assistance to homeowners in need for a period of no longer than 36 months. The assistance would have to be paid back to the FHA and would only be offered if FHA officials deem that the homeowner would be able to honor their mortgage obligations and pay back the emergency assistance after this time period.

Saving people's homes in this manner is a win-win proposition for the government, for the homeowners, the lenders and for the adjacent communities. As you know, the FHA guarantees 100 percent of mortgage loans provided by private lenders to middle- and low-income families under the National Housing Act. Yes, 100 percent. When a home is foreclosed, the FHA has to pay the lender the entire cost of the mortgage. As you can imagine, this is tremendously costly. It can also be avoided in many cases.

In such cases, temporary assistance can make all the difference for homeowners, allowing homeowners to pay for repairs and honor their mortgages. The FHA saves money because the temporary assistance they provide is far less costly than paying the full cost of the mortgage. In addition, the temporary assistance must be paid back thus recouping additional taxpayers' dollars. The lenders are equally satisfied because they are receiving their monthly assessments. And the community is preserved from blight that would otherwise reduce property values throughout the area. The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act is a solution that restores the dream of homeownership for everyone concerned.

The program has also been "battle-tested." My legislation is based on a very successful program in Pennsylvania. More than 24,000 Pennsylvania families faced with possible foreclosure have received help from the state's Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP). Pennsylvania's Republican Governor Tom Ridge and Democratic leaders throughout the state have hailed the program as a cost-efficient means to prevent homelessness. In Pennsylvania, 90 percent of assistance payments have been paid back and only eight percent of HEMAP loans have resulted in foreclosure. This record of success should be duplicated at the Federal level.

Saving homes, money and neighborhoods is what government programs should work to achieve. The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act will accomplish these vital goals. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and work with me to maintain the dream of homeownership for middle- and low-income Americans.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN CENTRAL ASIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has focused much needed attention on U.S. foreign policy with respect to the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion and the right to practice one's personal faith. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and for the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to direct the attention of this House to the Department of State's "OSCE Implementation Report 1998" and, more specifically, the sections concerning religious freedom issues.

In Central Asia, the recognition of religious liberty has been mixed. The Constitution and laws of the Kyrgyz Republic provide for the right of all citizens to choose and practice their own religion. However, these rights are not being effectively protected in practice. In December 1996, the President issued a decree creating new legal obstacles for registering

church congregations. In 1997, a new law failed to pass the parliament that would have severely limited religious liberties. Similarly, in its seventh year of independence, Kazakhstan citizens enjoy basic religious rights, although the government is inclined to regulate the activities of foreign religious associations. Current law in Turkmenistan requires 500 signatures before registration is granted and in Uzbekistan, similar restrictions apply to religious groups.

In Eastern Europe, although there are signs of progress, there are some countries that could be potential trouble spots. In 1997, Russia enacted a potentially discriminatory law concerning religion which imposes new restrictions on the establishment of new religious organizations. In Moldova, there is currently in force a 1992 law on religion that contains some restrictions to religious liberty and could inhibit the activities of some religions, although these provisions are reportedly not being enforced. In Ukraine, despite the 1991 law which has positive provisions, a 1993 amendment to that law has been used to restrict the activities of foreign religious organizations. Foreign religious workers have encountered resistance from Ukrainian local officials when trying to renew visas or seeking the use of public buildings for religious services. These kinds of government activities may violate commitments found in the Helsinki Final Act, Basket III, Section 1d, in which the participating states confirm that religious faiths can have contacts and meetings among themselves.

The focus of the report on the Baltic States is Latvia where freedom of religion is constitutionally well established. Under the 1995 Law on Religious Organizations, the Government of Latvia does not require religious groups to register. However, there is incentive to do so in that certain rights and privileges will be afforded to them only if they register. The Justice Ministry has registered some 800 congregations under this law but still denies registered status to Jehovah's Witnesses, the Latvian Free Orthodox Church, the Church of Christ Scientist, and the Rock of Salvation Church. With respect to foreign missionaries, they are allowed to hold meetings and proselytize only if Latvian religious organizations invite them. In particular the Jehovah's Witnesses have encountered severe obstacles under the current Latvian legal framework. As one of the privileges afforded to registered religious organizations, Latvian law allows for religious education to be provided to students in public schools on a voluntary basis by representatives of registered faiths. Elsewhere in the Baltics, Estonia has yet to clarify the implementation of a new visa law enacted in January which could potentially restrict residency of foreign missionaries to ninety days during any six month period. The Baltics merit a close watch, despite some favorable reports.

In the Caucasus, both Azerbaijan and Armenia have strict laws prohibiting foreigners from proselytizing. While Azerbaijan does respect "domestic" faiths, placing no restrictions on them, many foreign groups have reported harassment. The Ministry of Justice has denied

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

registration to one such group but does allow it to continue to function. The Helsinki Commission in investigating this case has learned that, because of this church's work among the refugee population, the Azeri government continues to refuse to register the humanitarian aid arm of the church but continues to refuse registration to their religious body. Unfortunately, this appears to be a pattern the Azeri Government follows when it receives a benefit from a group it does not want to register.

In Armenia there are similar concerns. In September of 1997, a new law was enacted by parliament, designed to stifle the growth of non-Armenian Orthodox churches by tightening registration requirements for non-Apostolic religions and also by tightening funding restrictions so that foreign-based churches are not allowed to be supported by funds from headquarters outside Armenia. Despite this, however, a variety of faiths regularly hold services.

While there has been progress in the OSCE region, there remain areas where significant violations of religious liberty are occurring in Eastern and Central Europe. I commend the "OSCE Implementation Report 1998" to my colleagues as an interesting study of the progress and problems of the region.

TRIBUTE TO MARY FAT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most inspiring citizens, Mary Fat. Mrs. Fat will be honored this evening by the Jinan-Sacramento Sister Cities Corporation. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in commemorating her remarkable contributions to the people of Sacramento.

Mary Fat was born Yee Lai Ching in Canton, China in 1908. She was the youngest of seven children in a prominent Hong Kong family. She became the bride of a young Frank Fat in 1924 in Canton. A traditionally arranged marriage, she never knew her husband before they were wed. In 1925, the couple saw the birth of a son, Wing-Kai.

Frank returned to the United States where he had worked before in 1926, without his wife and newborn son. His objective was to make enough money to repay debts and support his young family. Frank quickly found work in a restaurant in Sacramento, California.

Yee Lai Ching was not eager to join her husband in the United States. But in 1936 she and her son joined Frank in Sacramento. At this time she adopted the American name of "Mary." She found a job at a Del Monte cannery in addition to her work raising a young son. Frank and Mary eventually had six children, four sons and two daughters. Their children were educated as attorneys, a dentist, and successful businessmen and women.

In 1939, Frank bought a dilapidated restaurant on L Street in Sacramento. His hard work and Mary's assistance eventually established the restaurant as one of the best in California's capital. They forged a successful life together in both business and community activism which encouraged an awareness of Chinese culture.

Mary strongly supported Frank as the leader of the Chinese community in Sacramento.

With her help, he founded the Jinan-Sacramento Sister Cities Corporation, the Chinese American Council of Sacramento, and CAPITAL, the Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Active Leadership.

Today, with the tireless work of Mary and Frank Fat, CAPITAL is Sacramento's premier Asian American Pacific Islander organization, comprising 65 groups in Northern California. Yet the Fat's family life was every bit as prolific as their civic endeavors.

Mary and Frank's children and grandchildren are following the example set by the Fats. They are positively contributing to their community and furthering awareness of the diverse Chinese culture which exists not only in Sacramento and California, but throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Fat has devoted her adult life to supporting the civic activism of her husband and promoting the wealth of Chinese culture which exists in my home state. As she is honored tonight, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting her seventy years of great accomplishments and community service in Sacramento.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMPLETION OF THE SAN LEANDRO CREEK MURAL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform my colleagues today about the completion of an important project in my district.

The Friends of San Leandro Creek have completed work on a creek mural located in Root Park in my district. This mural spans more than 19,000 square feet and is the largest of its type in the Western United States.

Students participating in the San Leandro High School Art Program created the mural design. The students were presented with information about the history of the creek and a list of items to be included in the final design. The final mural depicts the Creek as it was in the early 18th century, filled with rainbow trout and fished by Native American tribes for food.

I would like to point out the hard work of Rick Richards. Rick put this idea together and has been a longtime local activist for environmental causes and a tireless advocate for local community development issues that may impact the San Leandro Creek. Rick is the environmental conscious of the San Leandro community. I would also like to thank Veronica Lacarra Werkmeister for her dedication to this project. She is a nationally renowned muralist and her commitment to teaching children and this project has resulted in the works we commemorate this weekend.

I am very proud to share this mural with my colleagues. The Friends of San Leandro Creek and the students at San Leandro High deserve credit for their commitment to this project and their commitment to San Leandro Creek. I look forward to visiting this mural after Congress adjourns and encourage residents of San Leandro to do the same.

CELEBRATING THE 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to congratulate the democratic government and the people of Taiwan, the Republic of China, on their 87th National Day which they celebrate on October 10, 1998.

Taiwan has much to celebrate this year, as it approaches the culmination of a decade marked by unparalleled economic growth, laudable political reforms, exceptional progress on human rights issues, and the general advancement of values cherished by free men and women around the world. Under the leadership of President Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan has been transformed not only into one of the world's most successful lands, but it has also been prepared to become one of the international community's foremost citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time to allow this progression to reach its overdue culmination in the form of Taiwan's full participation in international organizations, including accession to the United Nation.

It is nearly a century since the founder of the Republic of China, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, drafted the original plans for a free nation unencumbered by emperors and tyranny. The realization of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's ideals and dreams did not occur with the swiftness he likely intended, as his republic's initial years witnessed lengthy civil wars, brutal invasions, and a series of unforeseen obstacles that forced the ROC's government to relocate to Taiwan at the end of its fourth decade. Out of the ashes of this tragedy, however, came the drive and determination to advance the fortunes and welfare of the Taiwanese people, to prove by comparison that free enterprise and political freedoms work with greater efficiency and justice than Communist alternatives.

President Lee's numerous and comprehensive reforms have provided unimpeachable evidence of this fact. He has limited government authority, repealing the extraordinary powers that were provided by outdated civil war decrees, and he has focused the government's responsibilities on issues such as technological investment and environmental protection. In addition, President Lee has led the Taiwanese people in the establishment of a diverse, competitive, multi-party political system with a free press and respect for human rights. This process was capped by Taiwan's presidential election in 1996, when, for the first time in five millennia of Chinese history, the head of state was directly elected by the people. Despite the dire warnings of those who opposed this evolution, Taiwan's economy and its people have flourished with these progressive changes.

Taiwan's enrichment has not only benefitted its island's nearly 22 million citizens; in addition, the ROC's largesse has aided developing nations and those suffering from humanitarian disasters as well. Whether operating a much-needed hospital in the strife-torn capital of the Central African Republic, contributing to the recovery of my home state of California after a devastating earthquake or, most recently, using its membership in the Asian Pacific Economic Community (APEC) to employ its vast

foreign exchange reserves to help ease the financial crisis suffered by its neighbors, Taiwan has proven its commitment to the welfare and health of the international community.

Given this reality, Mr. Speaker, it is both unfortunate and unjust that Taiwan is still denied membership in the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, and other multilateral bodies that would benefit from the Taiwan's active involvement. Regrettably, many of Taiwan's humanitarian contributions have been shunned or rejected as a consequence of this political inequity.

In 1993, for example, the ROC's Department of Health pledged to donate \$200,000 to a WHO/UNICEF program in order to provide vaccines for children of Kazakhstan and four other Central Asian republics. However, this donation was rejected because the ROC is not a member of the UN or the WHO. Mr. Speaker, it is tragic when children suffer because political obstinacy was more important than human welfare.

Not only does Taiwan's exclusion for participation in international organizations harm other nations, it violates the fundamental international right that countries that are affected by multilateral cooperation agreements should have the right to participate in the crafting of these agreements. Taiwan, according to the UN itself, is one of the six largest high-sea fishing countries in the world, yet it was denied the opportunity to join in the negotiation and adoption of an important UN fish conservation agreement in 1995.

In a similar situation, Taiwan's offer to become a signatory to the Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was refused, resulting in the threat of international economic sanctions against Taiwan—despite the ROC's unilateral implementation of the provisions of the Protocol. Mr. Speaker, the diplomatic anachronism of Taiwan's absolute exclusion from efforts of international cooperation must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan's 88th year appears to hold great promise, as long-stalled talks with the People's Republic of China seem likely to continue in the near future. In addition, Taiwan's economy remains strong despite serious regional difficulties. The record of success of the Taiwanese people is unmistakably clear and strong.

On this important anniversary, Mr. Speaker, I wish the people of Taiwan a glorious National Day and I wish the government of Taiwan the voice that it deserves in the international community.

SHIRLEY FLEISCHMANN NAMED MICHIGAN PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR BY CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Shirley Fleischmann, an engineering professor at the Padnos School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University. As Vice-Chairman of the House Science Committee, I am extremely proud to announce that Shirley has been named by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as its 1998 Michigan Professor of the Year.

Dr. Fleischmann is the first engineering professor and the fourth woman in the state of Michigan to receive this award since it was introduced in 1985. She is also the first Grand Valley State University professor to receive this award that recognizes undergraduate instructors who excel as teachers and who influence the lives of their students. The award is based on the recipients demonstrated involvement with undergraduate students, their scholarly approach to teaching, and their service to their profession and the community in which they live. For professors the award is one of the highest honors they can receive.

Before beginning her teaching career at Grand Valley, Shirley was a professor of mechanical engineering at the United States Naval Academy from 1982–1989. She earned her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. She also received M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Physics from Maryland and was awarded a B.S. in Physics as well. Shirley grew up in Holland, Michigan, where she graduated from Holland Christian High School. To this day she credits her high school teachers for giving her the tools and skills necessary to do her job so effectively.

Mr. Speaker, it is the effort and dedication of professors like Shirley Fleischmann that is so crucial to the future of science education. Professors such as Shirley can help the United States renew its interest in science and better prepare our leaders of tomorrow with the necessary tools and knowledge they need for careers in math, science, and engineering. Her excitement and willingness to go that extra mile in training future scientists and engineers is a shining example of why she was selected for this prestigious award. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Professor Shirley Fleischmann on this outstanding accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF ESOP REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to provide tax reform in order to encourage economic growth of employee-owned companies in my State of Illinois and around the country.

I have been a strong advocate of employee stock ownership plans (ESOP's). I also have the privilege of representing a significant number of employee-owners of the Nation's largest publicly-owned ESOP, United Airlines. After taking over the ownership of the company, the United employees effected a dramatic economic turnaround of the company's fortunes—making United Airlines a financial success story.

In the summer of 1997, Gerald Greenwald, Chairman and CEO of United Airlines, came to me with ideas to amend the tax rules to allow employees to better utilize their ESOP Investments. When the ESOP tax laws were written, they did not account for companies like United taking ESOP's to such a grand scale. So, as in so many cases it is time for the law to catch up to the realities of the marketplace.

I have been working on these proposals since then to prepare for an opportunity to include them in an appropriate tax vehicle. Such an opportunity has not yet presented itself. Therefore, I am introducing these proposals as stand-alone bills and to bring more attention to the need for updating the ESOP laws.

While ESOP's give the employees a stake in the company and provide a great opportunity to invest for retirement, the current tax rules restrict the ability of employees to use their investments for other important events in their life.

The first bill will expand the ability of employee owners to make qualified distributions from their ESOP's, without incurring a 10-percent penalty on early withdrawals. Similar to the expanded uses for individual retirement accounts Congress has passed, this proposal will allow ESOP distributions for first time home purchases or for college expenses. This will especially benefit middle-income level employees who find it more difficult to save the money to buy their own home or send their children to college.

The second proposal would address a conflict between 401(k) plans and ESOP's. Under current law, employer contributions to 401(k) retirement plans are limited when contributions are also being made to an ESOP. My bill will allow employers to contribute to their employees' 401(k) plans without taking into account their ESOP contributions.

I commend these bills to the attention of my colleagues and urge them to support the employee-owners at United and other ESOP's around the country by cosponsoring these measures.

REDOUBLING EFFORTS TO APPREHEND INDICTED WAR CRIMINALS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4660, authorizing the provision of rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of war criminals and those who have committed other serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia.

As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have followed the tragic developments in the former Yugoslavia and advocated decisive action to stop the senseless slaughter, first in Bosnia, and most recently in Kosovo. But decisive action is not limited to military intervention alone. The tragic chapters of genocide and cold blooded murder in the Former Yugoslavia will not be closed until those responsible for such heinous criminal acts are brought to justice.

Developments in Bosnia underscore the fact that there is a price—a high price—to be paid for allowing indicted war criminals like Karadzic and Mladic to remain at large. The unfolding carnage in Kosovo is most certainly the handiwork of the "Butcher of Belgrade," Slobodan Milosevic. I applaud the recent passage of resolutions in the House and Senate calling for the investigation and indictment of Slobodan Milosevic as a war criminal. In fact, I introduced the measure in this House. We all

recognize, though, that true justice demands that the net be cast further than the one person most responsible.

As a supporter of the Tribunal, I believe it is critical that the Tribunal take a proactive stance in Kosovo that could serve as a possible deterrence against a new round of war crimes in the Former Yugoslavia. In the case of Bosnia, the Tribunal could only react to crimes that were mostly committed before and during its formation. In Kosovo, however, crimes could perhaps be deterred, if the Tribunal is vigorous and visible in its investigation of ongoing activity.

Mr. Speaker, we saw a couple of days ago the reports of a major massacre in three villages in Kosovo, where women, children and the elderly were slain and, in some instances, their bodies mutilated by the Serbian security forces. These scenes are all too familiar and, absent determined action, will be repeated over and over and over again. The Helsinki Commission has received disturbing reports from Senator Bob Dole and Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck who formed a fact-finding mission to Kosovo. They told us about men being separated from women and children and simply taken away, perhaps to lengthy detention or maybe their execution. There are also reports, again of the mass rape being used as a weapon of war.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 4660, I believe adoption of this legislation will underscore the continued commitment of the United States to see that those responsible for the war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable for their actions. While it is unlikely that the offer of rewards alone will lead to the arrest or conviction of all of those responsible for war crimes in the Former Yugoslavia, even if one war criminal is brought to justice as a result of our action today, the modest investment would have been worth the effort.

ELECTRICITY DEREGULATION

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, together with my Ways and Means colleague, Mr. NEAL, I have introduced a bill setting forth the Administration's approach to legislation addressing the tax consequences of electricity deregulation upon tax-exempt bonds issued by municipally owned utilities for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. As my colleagues may recall, the Administration unveiled a comprehensive electricity deregulation proposal on March 24, 1998, which included a section dealing with the tax issues associated with deregulation.

The 105th Congress did not have an opportunity to take up this or other proposals on electricity deregulation this year. However, despite the lack of Federal legislation in this area, 18 states have already gone forward and begun to deregulate electricity at the state and local level. My own home state of California has deregulated much of its market already. The era of competition has already started for the utilities operating in these states.

Municipally-owned utilities have operated up to now under a strict regime of Federal tax

rules governing their ability to issue tax-exempt bonds which were enacted in an era that did not contemplate electricity deregulation. These so-called "private use" rules limit the amount of power that municipal or state-owned utilities ("public power") may sell to private entities through facilities financed with tax-exempt bonds. For years, the private use rules were cumbersome but manageable. As states deregulate, however, the private use rules are threatening many communities that are served by public power with significant financial penalties as they adjust to the changing marketplace. In effect, the rules are forcing public utilities to face the prospects of violating the private use rules, or walling off their customers from competition, or raising rates to consumers—the precise opposite of what deregulation is supposed to achieve. The consumer can only lose when this happens.

The Administration proposal that I am introducing today would protect consumers by grandfathering already outstanding bonds, continue to permit public utilities to issue tax-exempt bonds for facilities involved in the distribution of electricity in the future, but eliminate their ability to issue tax-exempt debt in the future for facilities involved with the transmission or generation of electricity.

In addition, because the restructuring of the electric utility industry is affecting the investor-owned utilities as well as public utilities, the Administration proposal includes a provision intended to address a tax problem that a number of the investor-owned utilities face in a deregulated world. Specifically, under present law, the amount of contributions to a qualified nuclear decommissioning fund a utility is entitled to deduct is the lesser of "cost-of-service" amount or the "ruling amount." In a restructured market, if a nuclear power plant is no longer subject to cost-of-service ratemaking, it could be determined that the amount of decommissioning costs included in cost-of-service would be zero. To eliminate this possibility, the provision would change the present law limitation on the amount of the deduction by limiting the deduction solely by reference to the "ruling amount."

I am introducing this legislation at this time in order to give affected parties, including consumers, an opportunity to review the bill and provided us in Congress with input on its provisions. With this input, we will be in a position to address this important issue more capably in the 106th Congress. I am certainly aware that there are other approaches to the private use problem, some of which have been introduced this year in the House and others in the other body. There are numerous policy and technical issues to be resolved in designing a fair and workable solution to this problem.

The bill does not resolve all of those problems, and indeed, is intended to be a starting point for the consideration of the tax issues involved with electricity deregulation. Other approaches, for instance, providing an election for public utilities to live within the current private use regime or opt into a regime without the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds except for distribution and transmission, merit serious review and discussion.

Even within the approach the Administration has taken in this bill, there are issues that might be decided differently. For instance, the legislation somewhat arbitrarily defines "distribution property" as output facilities that operate at 69 KV or lower. It is our understand-

ing that this definition does not pick up all facilities used for distribution, and that a more flexible definition may be necessary. We welcome input on this issue.

In addition, the legislation ties the relief in the bill to enactment of a Federal electric deregulation bill, which, of course, has not yet been enacted. Because states like California have already deregulated, public power consumers need this relief now. An alternate effective date tied to state deregulation activities would be appropriate.

Another example of an important issue that might be addressed differently is the refunding of bonds. The legislation permits only current refundings of tax-exempt bonds within the grandfather of existing debt, but it also permits the maturity of the bonds to be extended for a limited period. On the other hand, it does not permit advance refundings. The legislation could be drafted to permit either approach to refunding, or advanced and current refundings without extension of the maturity term. I urge affected parties to comment on which is the more appropriate rule.

Another complex issue on which we seek comment is whether public utilities should be able to issue bonds for generation and transmission where the proceeds of the bonds are used just to repair or make environmental improvements to existing facilities and are not used to expand significantly current capacity. The bill as introduced does not address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we plan to work with all interested parties including American consumers to ensure that we end up with the fairest, most reasonable solution to this complex problem. We want electricity deregulation to be a good deal for everyone involved, especially the American consumer who certainly deserves the lower electric bills that a competitive marketplace is supposed to provide. I urge my colleagues to review this legislation carefully over the coming months and welcome their input, as well as that of all affected parties.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING SYRIA'S LIBERAL POLICY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize with commendation that the country of Syria followed through on its promises regarding Jewish emigration over the past 6 years.

Beginning in 1992, without fanfare, Syria eased its strict travel and emigration policies on its Jewish community. Numbering around 100,000 at the turn of the century, the Syrian Jewish community numbered only approximately 5,000 by 1992. Up until 1992, Syrian Jews could only travel outside of the country individually, and only if family members remained behind. Between April and October of 1992, however, approximately 2,600 of this 5,000 were allowed to emigrate from Syria.

In October of 1992, Syria temporarily suspended this eased emigration policy. However, in December of 1993, Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the country, and in a goodwill gesture during this visit, President

Assad informed Secretary Christopher that all remaining Jewish families were free to leave Syria. The liberal Jewish emigration procedures soon resumed, and the Department of State informs me that all but 118 Jewish individuals have been granted exit visas and left Syria. The majority of these families decided to resettle in the United States, specifically in Brooklyn, where a thriving Syrian Jewish community of about 35,000 exists. The State Department reports none of these remaining Syrian Jews have reported Syrian government persecution, and that many plan to emigrate soon.

I was first made aware of Syria's emigration policy toward its Jewish community when I met with President Assad this past June in Damascus. In discussion, President Assad referenced this emigration policy as an example of Syria's continuing good faith effort to propel forward the Middle-East peace process. He did not, but some in the Syrian government did, observe that no statement of acknowledgment of Syria's following through on its emigration commitment had ever been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I wish to correct that oversight now.

Emigration is a basic human right that all responsible nations respect and allow. I commend President Assad for joining the community of nations that seek to guarantee this human right. In an attempt to create a conducive atmosphere toward fostering the peace process, President Assad allowed Syrian Jews to emigrate. Six years have passed since this policy began. It is time that recognition and approbation be properly given.

STATE SENATOR J. DOYLE
CORMAN, A STATESMAN FOR
THE PEOPLE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the great statesmen from my District. Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's great historical authors and poets, wrote in *The Lady of the Lake* of "[t]he will to do, the soul to dare." No phrase is more attributable to Pennsylvania State Senator J. Doyle Corman. For the last 21 years, Doyle Corman has served as State Senator to the 34th District which includes Centre, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. During this time, I have had the distinct pleasure of representing these counties as part of the Ninth Congressional District and working hand-in-hand with Doyle to help improve the lives of our mutual constituents.

After a stellar career in service to his country and his friends and neighbors, Doyle has decided to retire. His resume speaks for itself: Army veteran, Centre County Commissioner, president of SEDA-COG, State Committeeman, president of Corman Associates, Inc., Republican Chairman of the State Senate Transportation Committee, Republican Policy Chairman, Majority Caucus Administrator, member of the State Transportation Commission, PHEAA board member, and member of the Local Government, Games & Fisheries, and Rules and Executive Nominations committees. The recipient of many honors and

awards, Doyle's success as State Senator leaves behind a powerful legacy to everyone who knows him.

For many years Doyle and I have worked on numerous projects to enhance the safety of our constituents and overall improve our region. One such notable example is the PA Rt. 322 "Missing Link" project in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. Responsible for numerous fatalities, this deadly stretch of two-lane highway was a problem that could only be solved by replacing it with a modern four-lane corridor. Doyle tirelessly worked with the Pennsylvania State Legislature and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to secure the necessary state funding while I acted in a similar capacity on the federal level. Today, I am happy to report that, as a result of our combined efforts, the "Missing Link" is under construction and nearing completion. I can honestly say that without the benefit of Doyle's support and diligent guidance this critical project would still be only a concept.

It has been truly a great honor to work with such a distinguished individual as Doyle, and I am sad to see him go. I congratulate him on a magnificent career and hope he enjoys the best retirement has to offer. In the words of Walter Lippmann, a noted journalist, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." I know for a fact that Doyle has accomplished this task. I am one of the "other men" who will work hard to continue Doyle's legacy.

Even though he is retiring, I know that we have not heard the last from Doyle Corman. As his history has proven, I am sure Doyle will continue to offer his knowledge and expertise when needed. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will join me in celebration of State Senator J. Doyle Corman's extraordinary service to the State of Pennsylvania. He is truly a great man, a great leader, a great American, and I wish him well in private life.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SAN MATEO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in recognizing the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on October 11, 1998.

The Community Baptist Church was originally dedicated as the San Mateo Chinese Baptist Community Center in 1948. The primary purpose of the church was to bring Christianity into the lives of Chinese Americans throughout the Peninsula. But what has evolved from this mission is a second purpose which is similarly special and valuable—to provide a community cultural center where the heritage, language, and customs of Chinese Americans are preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo was the product of a mission program established by Mother Margarita Garton and the First Baptist Church of Bur-

lingame, California. Community Baptist Church spent many years establishing itself in and contributing to the community, growing and thriving to meet the needs of its rapidly expanding membership. The church's increasing significance was evidence in 1963 by the construction of a sanctuary on its current site on South Humboldt Street in San Mateo. Three years later, Sunday School classrooms were added to the building, and during the 1980's a multi-storied Conference Center and Nursery was erected.

The Community Baptist Church has endeavored to meet the needs of the expanding population of Cantonese-speaking Chinese Americans in San Mateo County. In 1990 the Community Baptist Church initiated full dual ministries in both English and Cantonese, with strong pastoral leadership serving both segments of a unified church. Since 1995, the church has provided the community with weekly classes in the Cantonese language, which have awakened interest in and informed students about their Chinese heritage.

As Community Baptist Church was the product of a mission program, it has continuously supported the American Baptist Mission Program, and the church has been recognized numerous times by the American Baptist Churches, USA for its contributions to this cause.

The church has also served for many years as a learning facility for the Minister-in-Training program for graduate seminary students. These students have gone on to serve as pastors of their own churches or as staff members of the American Budget Churches of the West.

Most notable of its numerous achievements, the Community Baptist Church has developed into a close-knit and supportive family. Many of its young members have grown into strong church and community leaders who now serve throughout California and across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank the Reverend Norman Owyang and his congregation at the Community Baptist Church for their outstanding contributions to the people of San Mateo and the Peninsula. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Reverend Owyang and the Community Church of San Mateo another half century of prosperity and continuing service to our community.

PROTECTING ISRAEL

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I worked with Mr. SAXTON and Mr. SALMON to introduce a resolution calling on the President to clarify American policy with respect to a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state. I did this because I feel the administration's policy regarding Israel and the Middle East process has been confusing and misleading not only for the American people, but for the international community at large, and especially for the parties to the peace process itself.

The United States has never endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state. After the signing of Oslo accords, the United States made it clear that all questions of sovereignty and statehood were a matter of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. However,

First Lady Hillary Clinton's public statement this May that "it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state . . . and seen on the same footing as any other state" put U.S. policy on this issue in severe and grave doubt.

Despite official denials by the U.S. State Department and numerous other officials in the administration, the First Lady's remarks were interpreted by many around the world including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, as "a very important and clear signal" regarding the administration's position. He subsequently threatened to unilaterally declare an independent Palestinian state in May of 1999—after the expiration of the scheduled date for completing the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The United Nations then voted this past July 7th to elevate the Palestinian observer mission at the United Nations to the status of a full observer mission, a status just short of that accorded an independent state. Media reports in the Middle East indicate that the government of French Premier Lionel Jospin may be prepared to recognize an independent Palestinian state immediately after the end of the interim Oslo accords in May 1999. Just last week in speaking to the United Nations, Yasser Arafat called on world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state—though the State Department had to scramble mightily to prevent him from repeating his threat to declare such a state unilaterally.

Mr. Speaker, what has been missing from this debate over the last several months has been a public—and unequivocal—statement from President Clinton himself that the United States will never recognize the unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state. No amount of denials, statements, or clarifications by Secretary of State Madeline Albright and other functionaries down at the State Department can dispel the confusion and uncertainty about U.S. policy occasioned by the First Lady's remarks. Rightly or wrongly, the reception of many around the world and even in this country is that only President Clinton has the clout to override the influence of the First Lady within his Administration.

For the President to pretend otherwise is to hide his head, and America's in the sand. The need for the President to personally act to clarify the U.S. position was brought home when Yasser Arafat stated on July 15, 1998 that "[t]here is a transition period of five years and after five years we have the right to declare an independent Palestine state. We are asking for an accurate implementation, an honest implementation of what has been signed in the White House under the supervision of President Clinton."

We must remember that Yasser Arafat demands the whole West Bank and has declared that there can be no permanent peace as long as the problem of Jerusalem remains "unresolved." The Palestinian Cabinet, on Thursday, September 24, stated that "at the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state."

It is way past time for the President to declare that the United States will never recognize a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state; and that Israel, and Israel alone, can determine its security needs. This

was made clear back in June, a month after the First Lady's remarks, when Palestinian National Council Speaker Salim al-Za'nun announced that, "If following our declaration of state, Israel renews its occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza strip, the Palestinian people will struggle and resist the occupier with all means possible, including armed struggle."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to expedite its consideration.

RECOGNITION OF TAMMY LYONS, TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tammy Lyons, a constituent from my district, who was recently selected as a finalist for the Department of Education's "Teacher of the Year."

Tammy, a resident of Charlestown, Rhode Island, has earned a great deal of respect and honor from her work as a fourth grade teacher at the Ashaway Elementary School. Her status as a Teacher of the Year finalist is a testament to her dedication to the education and development of her students as well as to the improvement of her school and community.

We have spoken a great deal lately of the importance of preparing our nation's students for the coming years and for the new challenges they will face. This goal will be reached through the dedication of our teachers, and Tammy stands out among their number. Not only does she shine as a teacher of the basic skills that students need, she has also brought new ideas to her community. Her day does not end with the afternoon bell; she helps coordinate an after-school program to help students deal with conflict. Such programs are clearly beneficial to our students, for they instruct the skills of understanding and tolerance, key character traits that are essential in a world that contains many ideas and beliefs.

For the last nine years, Tammy has been an asset to her school and her community by bridging the traditional role of teacher with the new expectations asked of modern educators. I thank Tammy for her dedication and commitment and ask colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this notable accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT LEO THE GREAT PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Saint Leo the Great Parish, a parish that builds on tradition, innovation and education.

In October 1948, St. Leo opened its doors. Father Sylvester Lux was appointed as the first pastor. Constructed to serve the growing communities of the South Hills area of Cleveland, Brooklyn Heights, and the northeast area

of Parma, St. Leo drew its original families from Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Francis DeSales parishes in Cleveland and Parma respectively.

In the spring of 1949, realizing that members of the parish didn't enjoy attending Mass at a public school, a temporary building was erected in three days. In January 1950, construction began on both a new school and a new church. The school opened in September 1950, and inaugural Mass was celebrated in the church on December 24, 1950.

Throughout the last fifty years, pastors have benevolently dedicated themselves to spreading the word of God and developing a parish that contributes to the well-being of its community. Both pastors and parishioners have devoted much of their time to sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, fostering the elderly and educating the youth. These same principles are still emulated today under the direction of Fr. Bob Bielek.

As the 50th anniversary approaches, St. Leo and parishioners are seizing the opportunity to make the world a finer place. Among the events marking the anniversary year is the Habitat for Humanity Adopt a House Project. The parish would become the first Catholic Parish within the city of Cleveland to complete such a project. The project is directly linked to St. Leo's 50th anniversary theme; to "Build a House Where Love Can Dwell."

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating St. Leo's 50th anniversary, a celebration of service and enhancement that began in 1948 and continues today.

CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friends from Florida, Mr. MCCOLLUM and Mr. FOLEY, for working together to bring this legislation to the floor today. Their hard work is sure to provide greater safety to millions of Americans. I want to thank Mr. MCCOLLUM, especially, who, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary, has given me his assurances that the provisions in the bill which allow for criminal background checks do not open volunteer organizations to greater liability. As the bill allows qualified entities—certain volunteer organizations—to obtain national criminal fingerprint background checks, it avails organizations that make use of the services generously donated by millions of Americans of a privilege heretofore unavailable to them. I am grateful for Chairman MCCOLLUM's recognition that obtaining criminal fingerprint background checks is a costly process from which, at least at present, results may not be available on a timely basis. Charities must balance the cost, burden, and timeliness of the process against the risk that otherwise qualified individuals may be discouraged from volunteering, and that needed programs may have to be reduced or eliminated to pay for such background checks. The committee included section 222 in the bill to provide an

option to voluntary nonprofit organizations, not to require them, either directly or indirectly, to undertake criminal fingerprint background checks for employees and volunteers. Chairman McCOLLUM has assured me, both personally and in his statement, that failure to seek or obtain a criminal fingerprint background check should not be construed as a basis for, or offered as evidence of, liability in civil litigation against a nonprofit voluntary organization where the lawsuit is based on the conduct or actions of an employee or volunteer.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the gentlemen from Florida for their herculean efforts to pass this important legislation, and I thank them for the privilege of making a statement on the bill. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the measure.

IN HONOR OF THE PEARL BUCK
CENTER'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to congratulate Pearl Buck Center on 45 years of dedicated service to individuals with developmental disabilities.

When Pearl Buck opened in 1953, it was one of the only educational programs in Oregon providing educational services to children with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Pearl Buck Center has continued this tradition of leadership in the community, the state, and the nation, providing vocational training, employment, education, and case management services to people with developmental disabilities.

Annually, Pearl Buck Center provides services to about 400 individuals with developmental disabilities and their children. Since it was founded, Pearl Buck Center has helped thousands of adults and children meet the challenges of their disabilities and find opportunities to succeed in school and on the job; to succeed as parents and as self-sufficient individuals; and to contribute to the community and society.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and spirit of service that characterizes this organization. I hope that all Americans will reflect on the dedication of the staff and volunteers of Pearl Buck Center and on the struggles and successes of the individuals they serve.

I extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to Pearl Buck Center for their efforts, past and present, to help individuals with disabilities more fully realize their abilities, potential, and independence. We are all richer for your 45 years of service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SENATOR BEN GAETH (DEFIANCE-OH) UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true public servant and long time friend, Sen-

ator Ben Gaeth of Defiance, Ohio. Senator Gaeth served with distinction from 1975 to the present in the Ohio Senate, and during that time I had the privilege of working with him on many issues of the day. Ben has also represented my home county of Hancock for 23 years during his tenure in the Senate and has always been a responsive and responsible legislator who has represented the best interest of his constituents during his illustrious career.

Senator Gaeth was first elected to the Senate in 1975 serving the people of the 1st Ohio Senate District. Before this he was Safety Director for the City of Defiance from 1962 until 1965. After this, he went on to serve a long career as the Mayor of Defiance until 1974. He has served as President in the Mayor's Association of Ohio as well as the Ohio Municipal League.

He has fought to preserve our nation's heritage and our children's freedom. He was wounded while in the Navy in the Pacific and Atlantic War Theaters. Mr. Speaker, Senator Gaeth is a true American Hero.

His many civic duties and charities include the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign War, Amvets, American Legion, Loyal Order of Moose, Eagles, and BPO Elks. As you can readily see, it is a wonder that he has had any time to raise a wonderful family.

He has three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we extend our best wishes to Ben and his lovely wife, Thelma, on this well earned retirement. Ben and Thelma have truly been inspirations to all of us in public service and have exemplified all that is best about politics and government.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERMAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 50th Anniversary of the German School Committee in San Luis Obispo, California on October 24, 1998.

The year 1998 marks the 50th Anniversary of the German School Committee exchange student program between San Luis Obispo High School in San Luis Obispo, California and Eberhard Ludwigs Gymnasium in Stuttgart, Germany, as the second oldest international student exchange of its kind.

The German School Committee began in 1948 at San Luis Obispo High School as a postwar goodwill project affiliated with the American Friends Service Committee, which sent goods to Eberhard Ludwigs Gymnasium students.

Ethel Cooley, former Dean of Women at San Luis Obispo High School, directed the program from 1948-1991, and Chris Hovis and Deborah Nelson have directed the program from 1992 to the present. A true student exchange program and a strong bond between the two high schools has developed during the past 50 years, enriching the stu-

dents' and families' lives by building cultural bridges in their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the German School Committee student exchange program on their 50th Anniversary, and for fostering friendships between students from culturally diverse backgrounds.

CLOSING THE HUGE HOLE IN
MEDICARE'S BENEFITS PACKAGE:
STARK INTRODUCES MEDICARE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act of 1998 to remedy a huge hole in the program's benefits package—outpatient prescription drug coverage. Twice in the past 10 years, Congress has almost provided this benefit, and twice we have failed. We established a drug benefit in the Medicare Catastrophic legislation of 1988, but it was repealed the next year before the benefit could start. A drug benefit was a key component of H.R. 3600, the Health Security Act of 1994, reported by the Ways and Means Committee, but failed to pass that year.

It is time to debate this issue again and try some new approaches.

While Congress has done nothing, drug costs have been soaring out of the reach of millions of seniors enrolled in traditional Medicare.

In 1995, 46% of seniors enrolled in fee-for-service Medicare were without drug coverage. Almost one-quarter of beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare HMOs (about 4% of all beneficiaries) do not have a drug benefit.

And in the face of projections that prescription drug prices are about to spike again, following a brief slowdown during the 1993-94 health care reform debate, the number of seniors with no drug benefits could accelerate.

By 2007, the Health Care Financing Administration projects drug costs will account for over 8% of total health care costs, up from 6% in 1996. Viewed another way, that could mean double-digit price increases. For many beneficiaries with modest incomes, no retiree health coverage, and too many assets to qualify for Medicaid, these economic trends mean they will be forced to rely on traditional Medicare—with no drug coverage.

In effect, we are rapidly creating a large underinsured class of Medicare beneficiaries.

So as we approach the millennium, I will pose the question again: Why doesn't Medicare have a drug benefit? Why do nearly all Americans who have private insurance, which includes every member of Congress, enjoy drug coverage, while millions of seniors do not?

Most Americans have heard stories about seniors who must make repeated, difficult choices to buy either prescription drugs or other necessities—like food. The health toll this produces is not easy to quantify. Researchers report that seniors without drug coverage frequently decide to go without medications for conditions such as headaches and muscle aches. What is less well known is that

many of these same seniors also decide to skimp on drugs to treat potentially serious diagnosed conditions, including leg swelling and diabetes.

This year, I have heard from many, many distraught seniors who have written to tell me they are going broke trying to pay for drugs their doctor told them they must take. I believe that some will wind up in worse health when they decide to forgo or cut back on the very drugs designed to keep them clinically stable.

The absence of a prescription drug benefit in Medicare that forces elderly people to skip and skimp on drugs is inexcusable. It is time for Congress to debate and enact legislation that will provide all seniors who want it access to affordable Medicare-sponsored drug coverage.

There really aren't any good alternatives. Trends in employer-sponsored retiree health coverage—which has traditionally featured a drug benefit—show it is eroding. A somber General Accounting Office report released last summer warns that “while an estimated 60 to 70% of large employers offered retiree health coverage during the 1980's, fewer than 40% do so today, and that number is continuing to decline despite the recent period of strong economic growth.” That's a polite way of pointing out that the number of U.S. companies offering their retirees health coverage in the last decade has been dropping like a stone.

For those seniors who don't—and won't—have retiree health coverage, purchasing a supplemental policy with good drug coverage may soon be unaffordable. Supplemental Medigap policies now costs on average more than \$1,200 per year, according to the American Association of Retired Persons. But Medigap policies with drug coverage can cost far more. The range in costs for Medigap policies with drug coverage is also large: In Los Angeles, Bankers' Life Insurance and Casualty sells a drug-Medigap policy for \$6,381 at age 65. At age 75, the same policy costs \$9,174! The difficulty that seniors have in affording comprehensive supplemental insurance is illustrated by the fact that in 1994–95, a mere 15% of seniors purchasing a Medigap policy had drug coverage.

The hard fact is that a Medigap policy with drug coverage is not now—and will never be—within the financial reach of millions of Medicare beneficiaries, particularly the very old, who are spending down their assets.

That brings us to Medicare managed care. Remember, one quarter of those who are enrolled today don't have any drug coverage. Those who do are facing ever-higher deductibles and copayments, and ever-lower annual reimbursement caps. In Massachusetts, where state law has long required all HMOs to offer drug coverage, Medicare managed care plans are now asserting that last year's Balanced Budget Act says they don't have to comply!

Only recently have seniors begun to understand that the comprehensive drug benefit they were promised in glossy HMO marketing materials is the equivalent of a “low introductory rate” pitch made by credit card companies. It's great while it lasts. But after that, you could be in trouble.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act is carefully designed to help those who most need an outpatient drug benefit—who don't get it from a former employer, from Med-

icaid or any other federal health program, and who pay an extra premium under Part B for Medicare drug coverage.

I am introducing this bill, roughly modeled on the 1994 legislation, so that consumers, pharmaceutical providers and others can study the issue over the winter, comment and suggest changes for a revised bill to be introduced at the beginning of the 106th Congress. I am leaving the numbers for the deductible, the caps, and the premiums blank, so that groups can comment on what they think the appropriate combination of figures should be.

In a separate statement, I am reprinting some of the literature that is available on the cost of different prescription drug benefit plans at different deductible levels. Clearly, there is a tradeoff between the size of the benefit and its affordability: Striking the right balance is the key to the passage of successful legislation.

There is a critical distinction between previous proposals for Medicare drug coverage and the legislation I am introducing today: If you already have an adequate prescription drug benefit, you will not have to “pay again” in higher Part B premiums. If you have coverage, there will be no change and no new cost to you. If you do not have a prescription drug benefit, you will face a higher Part B premium, but if you are low income, you will get assistance in paying for it. While it is tempting to say that the decision to enroll in the prescription drug benefit could be voluntary, the adverse risk selection (i.e., only sick people needing lots of costly prescriptions would be likely to sign up) would make the cost of premiums to those enrollees prohibitive.

Adding an outpatient drug benefit to Medicare is not cheap. But IF prices are set at the “wholesale” level that physicians, medical suppliers and other purchasers pay, and IF all budgetary savings are not immediately earmarked for tax cuts, then Medicare drug coverage is affordable.

In the next Congress, we will have another opportunity to reshape Medicare to make it a better program. As we work to stabilize the program's financing, we must also improve it for those it was created to serve—our nation's seniors.

Without drug coverage, more and more seniors will fall through the widening cracks of a health care system that is getting leaner and meaner.

Without drug coverage, we'll see more seniors who can't afford to take their medications treated in the emergency room, where health care costs are highest.

Adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare along with a requirement that costs be held to reasonable levels and a reasonable rate of growth is a clear way out of this dilemma. It is legislation that is 33 years overdue. I hope my colleagues will join me in vigorously advocating for passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act in the 106th Congress.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE: HATED AND BIGOTRY IN ITS MOST FRIGHTENING FORM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in studying the

recently released report of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) entitled *Explosion of Hate: The Growing Danger of the National Alliance*. This comprehensive and well-written document addresses the activities and proclivities of one of the most dangerous hate groups in America, the neo-Nazi National Alliance.

The stated goal of the National Alliance is to secure “a racially clean area of the earth . . . no non-whites in our living space . . . a thorough rooting out of Semitic and other non-Aryan values and customs everywhere.” To achieve this warped end, this organization of intolerance pledges “to do whatever is necessary to achieve this White living space and to keep it White. We will not be deterred by the difficulty or temporary unpleasantness involved.” Indeed, the ADL report details the depths of “temporary unpleasantness” to which the National Alliance has sunk in its pursuit of its depraved agenda, tracing numerous cold-blooded murders and other terrorist activities to National Alliance members. Declared National Alliance leader William L. Pierce: “We should not flinch from this. We should not focus on the fact that it will be horrible and bloody, but on the fact that it is necessary, and because it is necessary it is good.” The dramatic growth of this frightening organization over the past several years should alarm us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD selected portions of “Explosion of Hate: The Growing Danger of the National Alliance.” I hope that my colleagues will read the entire report on the ADL's web site at www.adl.org.

EXPLOSION OF HATE: THE GROWING DANGER OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE

INTRODUCTION: THRIVING ON HATE

The Most Dangerous Organized Hate Group

A new ADL investigation reveals that the neo-Nazi National Alliance (NA) is the single most dangerous organized hate group in the United States today. The NA sprang to national attention several years ago, when it was discovered that a fictitious incident in *The Turner Diaries*, a violent and racist novel written by the NA's leader, might have been used as a model for the Oklahoma City bombing. Convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh was a devoted reader of *The Diaries*, which features a bombing scenario that is eerily reminiscent of the April 19, 1995 blast. The book was also the blueprint for *The Order*, a revolutionary terrorist group that robbed and murdered its way to fame in the early 1980s. The ringleader of *The Order* was an organizer for the NA.

Now, the National Alliance has leaped to prominence again. In the last several years, dozens of violent crimes, including murders, bombings and robberies, have been traced to NA members or appear to have been inspired by the groups's propaganda. At the same time, the National Alliance's membership base has experienced dramatic growth, with its numbers more than doubling since 1992. The group, headquartered near Hillsboro, West Virginia, is led by former University of Oregon physics professor and veteran anti-Semite William L. Pierce.

Active Cells From Coast to Coast

With 16 active cells from coast to coast, an estimated membership of 1,000 and several thousand additional Americans listening to its radio broadcasts and browsing its Internet site, the National Alliance is the largest and most active neo-Nazi organization in the nation. The group has also developed significant political connections abroad. In the past three years there has been evidence of

NA activity in no fewer than 26 states across the country. The organization has been most active in Ohio, Florida, Michigan, New York, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and New Mexico.

The National Alliance's current strength and influence can be attributed to several factors; its skillful embrace of technology, its willingness to cooperate with other extremists, its energetic recruitment and promotional activities, and its vicious, but deceptively intellectualized propaganda.

A HATE-FILLED NETHERWORLD

Learning From The Turner Diaries

Around the country, local National Alliance leaders are responsible for ensuring that their charges read Pierce's novel, *The Turner Diaries*, from cover to cover. Some of these unit coordinators have suggested that they regard the novel—which depicts an Aryan world takeover—as a model for their own activities. For instance, *The Turner Diaries* describes the protagonists' defiance of the fictitious "Cohen Act," a law against private ownership of weapons. Convinced that the government will one day confiscate the weapons of all citizens as it does in *The Diaries*, some NA leaders have instructed members to keep guns and ammunition hidden on their property. Some coordinators have further advised followers to acquire M-16s and other weapons used by the U.S. Army, so that in the event the government does disarm its citizens, NA members will be able to raid military bases and steal ammunition for their hidden guns.

The Ideology of Hate

Beyond these specific tactical instructions, National Alliance leaders school their adherents in an ideology of hate. The NA is determined to secure "a racially clean area of the earth . . . no non-whites in our living space . . . a thorough rooting out of Semitic and other non-Aryan values and customs everywhere. . . . We must have new societies throughout the white world which are based on Aryan values and are compatible with the Aryan nature." The National Alliance claims it "will do whatever is necessary to achieve this White living space and to keep it White. We will not be deterred by the difficulty or temporary unpleasantness involved, because we realize that it is absolutely necessary for our racial survival."

Fundamental to the organization's doctrine is the belief that "our world is hierarchical" and that the Aryan race is endowed by nature with superior qualities. The National Alliance laments that "nature" is currently unable to take its course, because "the sickness of multiculturalism is destroying America, Britain and every other Aryan nation in which it is being promoted."

Rejecting Democracy

The group's racist vision extends to its views on government. The National Alliance decries "the growth of mass democracy," including "the enfranchisement of women and of non-whites," and favors a government that will "reverse the racially devolutionary course of the last few millennia and keep it reversed."

NA activists are also eager to erase the special progress made by women in the last century, and believe that "feminism is a threat to our race." "A woman's battlefield is the maternity ward," they say, and her "greatest 'diploma' is to give birth to the 'superman' or 'superwoman'."

NA members believe that people are the masters of their destiny, and can control the trajectory of their lives, within the laws of nature. The doctrines of various religious groups are therefore a target. The National Alliance specifically rails against Christianity, because most of its members have Chris-

tian family backgrounds. "We are obliged to oppose the Christian churches and to speak out against their doctrines," read the group's tenets. "It is not an Aryan religion . . . like the other Semitic religions [it] is irredeemably primitive."

Jews as THE Threat

While Pierce and other NA figures dehumanize both Blacks and Jews, depicting them as threats to "Aryan culture" and "racial purity," Jews are considered a more immediate menace to white survival. In his infamous essay, "Who Rules America?" Pierce's hatred of Jews turns to paranoia and conspiracy mongering, as he describes the United States as being in the thrall of a malevolent Jewish-owned media.

"The Jewish control of the mass media," Pierce writes, "is the single most important fact of life, not just in America, but in the world today. There is nothing—plague, famine, economic collapse, even nuclear war—more dangerous to the future of our people."

The National Alliance attempts to intellectualize its racist agenda in the page of its glossy magazine, the *National Vanguard*. The magazine, which is published irregularly, glorifies Aryan civilization and racial purity in articles such as "Aryans: Culture Bearers to China" and "Miscegenation: The Morality of Death." The *National Vanguard*'s highbrow tone contrasts sharply with the cruder, poorly edited propaganda materials of some other extremist groups, and perhaps heightens the NA's appeal among better-educated bigots.

THE DIARIES: AN INSPIRATION

While he wrote "*The Turner Diaries*" more than two decades ago, Pierce continues to champion its ugly vision of a world for whites only. A National Alliance radio broadcast aired in early 1997 provides one of many examples:

In 1975, when I began writing "*The Turner Diaries*" . . . I wanted to take all of the feminist agitators and propagandists and all of the race-mixing fanatics and all of the media bosses and all of the bureaucrats and politicians who were collaborating with them, and I wanted to put them up against a wall, in batches of a thousand or so at a time, and machine-gun them. And I still want to do that. I am convinced that one day we will have to do that before we can get our civilization back on track, and I look forward to the day.

Following its broadcast on shortwave and conventional radio stations, a recording of Pierce's explicitly violent statement was featured on the NA's Web site.

A Racist Crime Spree

Other murderers and terrorists appear to have shared the racist fantasies Pierce voiced in his radio address. "*The Turner Diaries*" is thought to be the inspiration behind a crime spree in the early 1980s perpetrated by a gang of extremists called *The Order*. The Order's crimes included murders, robberies, counterfeiting and the bombing of a synagogue."

After a Seattle bank robbery in 1983, the terrorist gang's leader, Robert Mathews, told an acquaintance that he had orchestrated the heist as the opening scene in what he hoped would be a reenactment of Pierce's American Nazi revolution. Prior to *The Order*'s formation, Mathews was a Pacific Northwest representative of the National Alliance, and other founders of this terrorist gang also traced their roots to the NA. Even the group's name, "*The Order*," was chosen as a reverent nod to its inspiration—an elite, clandestine paramilitary unit featured in "*The Turner Diaries*."

The Aryan Republican Army: Reading the Turner Diaries

More recently, members of a white supremacist gang calling itself the "Aryan Re-

publican Army" took its cues from *The Order*. Authorities say the "Army," led by Peter Langan, committed 22 bank robberies and bombings across the Midwest between 1992 and 1996 using tactics reminiscent of *The Order*. Four members of the group have pleaded guilty to a variety of robbery charges, while Langan was convicted in two Federal trials. In a racist video discovered by the FBI, Langan praised Robert Mathews and instructed his viewers to "learn from Bob." Federal prosecutors have also demonstrated that *The Turner Diaries* was required reading in the Aryan Republican Army.

The New Order: Planning Violence

The activities of *The Order* have also been cited as a role model for an alleged conspiracy by a group of white supremacists in East St. Louis, Illinois. In March 1998, Federal authorities arrested Dennis McGiffen, an Aryan Nations leader and former Klansman, Wallace Weicherding, also a former Klansman, and Robert Bock. The three were charged with conspiracy to possess and make machine guns. McGiffen and Bock pleaded guilty to the charges one month later. Wallace Weicherding was convicted on September 1, 1998.

At the time of their indictment, an FBI agent testified that McGiffen had been forming a group called "*The New Order*," patterned after Robert Mathews' terrorist gang. The group allegedly planned to bomb the Anti-Defamation League's New York headquarters, the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. They had also talked of bombing state capitols and post offices, and poisoning public water supplies with cyanide. Like other admirers of *The Order*, McGiffen's beliefs were reportedly heavily influenced by "*The Turner Diaries*."

RACIST LINKS

The Fort Bragg Murders

Also on the East Coast, the NA has attempted to attract members among U.S. Army personnel at Fort Bragg, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. A member of the elite 82nd Airborne Division, Robert Hunt, reportedly worked as a recruiter for the National Alliance while stationed at Fort Bragg. In April 1995, according to the NA, Hunt rented a billboard outside Fort Bragg and used it to post an advertisement and local phone number for the group.

In December 1995, a Black couple was gunned down near the Army base in what prosecutors called a racially motivated killing. James Burmeister and Malcolm Wright, members of the 82nd Airborne Division, were ultimately convicted of the murders and sentenced to life in prison. (A third soldier, Randy Meadows, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and accessory charges.) Burmeister and Wright were active neo-Nazi Skinheads, and reportedly read National Alliance propaganda.

Racist Shooting in Mississippi

Another racial incident that can be linked to National Alliance propaganda occurred in April 1996, when Larry Wayne Shoemaker killed one African American and injured seven others in Jackson, Mississippi. Police say Shoemaker piled a small arsenal of weapons into an abandoned restaurant in a predominantly Black neighborhood, and from his hideout began shooting wildly into the street in a murderous rampage. As an ambulance tried to rescue a dying victim, Shoemaker continued firing his rifle, preventing emergency workers from remaining on the scene. Shoemaker ultimately took his own life.

In a police search of Shoemaker's home, authorities found a Nazi flag draped over his

bed, a copy of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and literature from the National Alliance. According to his ex-wife, Shoemake first encountered NA propaganda in the mid-1980s, when he borrowed "The Turner Diaries" from a friend. She said her husband wasn't the same after he read Pierce's novel. "It was like an eye-opener for him," his wife said. "There was a distinct difference in him." Shoemake also began subscribing to Pierce's monthly publications.

Separation or Annihilation

The October 1995 issue of "Free Speech," a monthly newsletter sent to financial supporters of the NA's "American Dissident Voices" radio program, seems to have had a particular impact on Shoemake. The issue featured an article called "Separation or Annihilation," which exhorted readers to choose between "racial separation" and "annihilation" of whites. It stated that "attaining racial separation and avoiding racial annihilation is worth any cost. We should be willing to give up every material thing we own to achieve it." Along the margins of the essay, Shoemake scrawled: "I say: Separation or annihilation! Who is crazy? Me or you? We will see." Shoemake repeated the NA's slogan in a final, rambling letter obtained and published by the Jackson, Mississippi, *Clarion-Ledger*. Shoemake wrote: "Black is the problem. It's in their genes. . . . They will never forgive whites for all the supposedly terrible treatment we did to them. The bottom line is: Separation or annihilation."

A VENOMOUS VOICE

Broadcasting Hate

Despite these crimes, Pierce continues to glorify violence, offering it as the ultimate solution to what he calls—in words reminiscent of Adolf Hitler—"the Jewish problem." Much like his writings, Pierce's weekly radio show is rife with incendiary speech. Moreover, while the program's topic varies from week to week depending on current events, Pierce's material never truly changes. Each broadcast is a springboard for the NA's enduring message of anti-Jewish, anti-Black and anti-government hatred.

The broadcasts can be picked up in most of the country on shortwave radio, are aired on local radio stations in parts of Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, New England, Florida and California and can be downloaded in audio form from the NA's World Wide Web site. Transcripts of the speeches are sent via E-mail to subscribers and are sent to financial supporters in the form of a monthly newspaper.

A Continuing Theme: Eliminating Jews and non-whites

In a November 1997 broadcast discussing the revelation that a Black man in upstate New York had infected dozens of local white girls with the AIDS virus, Pierce said:

Ultimately, we must separate ourselves from the Blacks and other non-whites and keep ourselves separate, no matter what it takes to accomplish this. We must do this

not because we hate Blacks, but because we cannot survive if we remain mixed with them. And we cannot survive if we permit the Jews and the traitors among us to remain among us and to repeat their treachery. Eventually we must hunt them down and get rid of them.

Continuing his tirade, Pierce said that while individual Blacks and Jews may seem worthy of redemption, the only tenable solution for white people is to eliminate all non-whites.

Calling for Racial Cleansing

In January 1998, in a speech titled, "What Is a Patriot to Do?" Pierce spoke of starting an armed revolution against the Jewish people. He agreed that such an act of resistance would demand sacrifice, but deemed its rewards far greater:

Yes, the great cleansing which must come may destroy millions of our own people, the innocent along with the guilty, the good along with the bad. * * * But eventually it must come, because otherwise our people will die, and everything that has gone before as well as everything that might come in the future will be lost forever. The great cleansing must come, and we must do whatever it takes to ensure that it does, so that our people will live.

The bottom line to listeners was a shrill cry for violence. "We should not flinch from this," Pierce said. "We should not focus on the fact that it will be horrible and bloody, but on the fact that it is necessary, and because it is necessary it is good."

LOOKING AHEAD

The National Alliance's dramatic growth is significant because it comes at a time when other neo-Nazi organizations, as well as groups like the Ku Klux Klan, are becoming weaker and more fragmented. Moreover, the NA does not appear to be siphoning members from these declining groups, but actually recruiting a fresh cast of educated, middle-class bigots. These new followers appear to be attracted to the National Alliance's dedicated membership, its commanding presence on the Internet, its emphasis on maintaining a "sophisticated" image, and its powerful leadership. As the National Alliance continues to gather momentum and strength, its threat of violence grows. Crimes being plotted or committed by NA members of "Turner Diaries" devotees have been mounting. By publishing this report, ADL seeks to increase public awareness of the dangers posed by these individuals, as well as to encourage stepped-up vigilance by law enforcement officials at all levels.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 557

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this impor-

tant resolution that addresses many of the unresolved issues of the Holocaust era. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues, Mr. GILMAN and the bill's sponsor, Mr. LANTOS, and their staff for preparing this important measure.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, survivors struggled to rebuild their lives. Holocaust victims in Western countries generally received some monetary compensation from Germany, albeit very limited compensation. Those victims whose homelands fell behind the Iron Curtain after World War II did not receive even this slight measure of justice. Other issues related to the Holocaust era, including the disposition of assets such as real or financial property, art work, and insurance policy proceeds went unresolved for all of these individuals, as well as for religious communities.

Mr. Speaker, a belated measure of justice for Holocaust victims is within reach. Much has been achieved, including unprecedented settlements between Holocaust survivors, Swiss Banks, and European insurance companies. Building on this momentum, the State Department and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will convene the Washington Conference on Holocaust-era Assets next month to address issues of Nazi-confiscated assets, including art, insurance, communal property, libraries and archives, as well as Holocaust education, research and remembrance. Conference participants will include government officials from over 40 countries, historians, experts, and representatives of major NGOs including the survivor community.

This resolution could not be considered at a more opportune moment. The resolution calls on countries to return expropriated properties to Holocaust victims or their heirs without arbitrary discrimination. It calls for the opening of archives relating to the Nazi era and for the continued prosecution of Nazi-era war criminals. It calls on Germany to provide just reparations to all Holocaust victims without delay and without the use of unreasonable eligibility criteria. Of equal importance, this resolution calls on all countries to encourage education on the history of the Holocaust and the consequences of the failure to respect human rights.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this resolution as a demonstration of Congress' support for the U.S. Government's efforts to achieve justice for Holocaust victims and their families. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure